

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10 stand in the present application. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figures 6 and 7 should be labeled "Prior Art." As noted above, Applicants have submitted revised Figures 6 and 7 which have been marked in red ink as "Prior Art." The correction will be made to the formal drawings upon receipt of permission from the Examiner and an indication of allowable subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner states in claims 10-11 it is unclear as to where "insertion" is disclosed in the specification.

In the "Field of the Invention" portion of the application it clearly states that a honeycomb structural body can be used as "a catalyst carrier in an exhaust gas purification apparatus for an internal combustion engine." (See Present Application at page 1, lines 5-11.) Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that as the term "in" clearly means that the honeycomb structural body is inserted into an exhaust gas purification apparatus, substantially as recited in claims 10 and 11. Accordingly, the Examiner's § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 10 and 11 is believed to be improper and Applicants respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of several different combinations of prior art including Leyrer et al. Applicants respectfully traverse all of the Examiner's § 103 rejections of the claims.

The Examiner states that Leyrer et al. discloses the roughness of the surface of partitions walls of a honeycomb body. However, Figures 2a and 2b in Leyrer et al. only illustrate a roughness measurement of the surface of the coating after a catalyst is coated thereon. Therefore, Leyrer et al. fails to teach or suggest any measure of "the roughness of the surface of partitions walls," as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

On the other hand, the present invention restricts the roughness of the surface of partitions walls to 1-5  $\mu\text{m}$  so as to attain an excellent catalyst loading property. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-11 which recite this measure of surface roughness of the partitions walls are believed to patentably define over the cited references, taken singly or in combination. More particularly, none of the other cited references overcomes the deficiency noted above with respect to Leyrer et al.

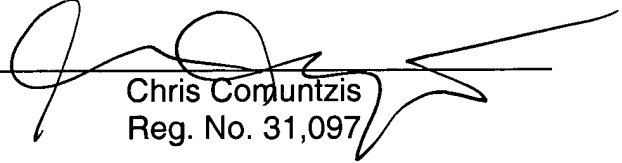
Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-11, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

NISHIMURA et al.  
Appl. No. 09/444,298  
November 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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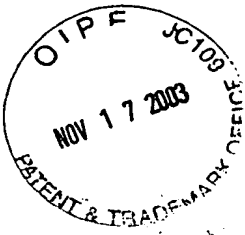


Fig.6

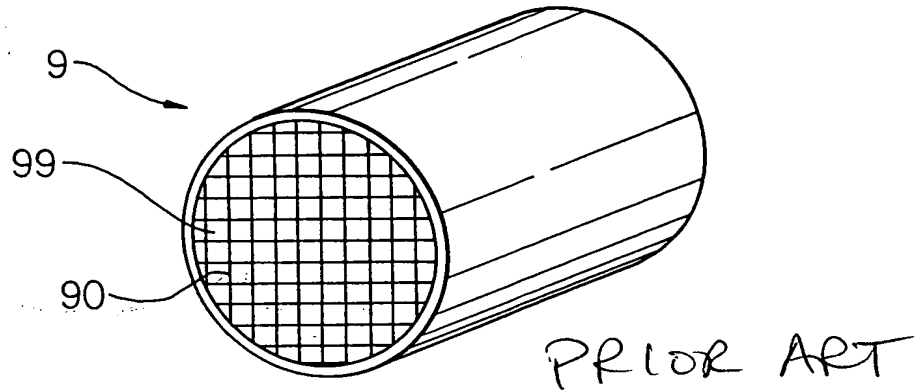


Fig.7

